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INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

PANETTA PICKED



In this Sept. 23, 1994 file photo, then-White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta gestures while meeting reporters in the White House briefing room in Washington. President-elect Barack Obama has selected Panetta to head the CIA, according to an Obama transition official.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

AP DEFENSE



Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison waits for the NFL football team's practice Monday Jan. 5, 2009, in Pittsburgh. The Associated Press named Harrison the Defensive Player of the Year on Monday. The Steelers face the San Diego Chargers on Sunday in the playoffs.

See *Sports Today*

Tri-Parliamentary talks held on Aruba



THE HAGUE--If the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles don't put aside their distrust and irritations, the process of decolonizing the islands will fail, according to Members of Parliament (MPs) Bas Jan van Bochove and Jan Schinkelshoek of the governing Christian Democratic Party CDA.

On the eve of their departure to Curaçao and Aruba for the regular meetings of the three Parliaments of the Dutch Kingdom, they published a letter through the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant*. In that letter, published on Saturday, the MPs expressed their fear that the Parliamentary Consultation of the Kingdom in Oranjestad could turn into a confrontation.

Continued on Page 3

At Cas Di Cultura

Fantastic Nutcracker Production



ORANJESTAD – Leonid Kozlov Dance International Inc., USA, and Leonid Kozlov, founder and artistic director, presented the Nutcracker at Cas Di Cultura this weekend showcasing the dancers of Kozlov Dance International USA and Club Di Movimiento in Aruba as well as Simadanza, Skol di Baile Diana Antonette and Step By Step, with music by Peter Tchaikovsky, and choreography by Leonid Kozlov, with costumes by Eugenia Schulz, Giselle Ferrari, Yelena Kozlova, Olga Gorevitch, and sets designed by Mikhail Sapognikov.

Continued on Pages 4 & 5

Premium Chicken Line
Crispy or Grilled



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At the Crystal Theater

"Havana Dance," is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The "Havana Dance" explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, the magnificent contemporary Cuban



dance.

"Havana Dance" is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is 'first of its kind' on the island.

While the greater part of the "Havana Dance" review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. "Havana Dance" unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set "Havana Dance" apart from any other cabaret.

Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous "Let's Go Latin" review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle.

Tickets for "Havana Dance" are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.-

Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge's desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort.

Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person.

For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357.

Don't miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of "Havana Dance." □

The Coconut Trading Co., is Stocked with Gorgeous Gifts



Palm Beach -- The Coconut Trading Company displays Hagedoorn, a Boston gifts personally selected native and longtime Aruba



resident.

Discover extraordinary treasurers handcrafted by skilled artisans and colorfully displayed in a beach house ambiance in the lobby of the Marriott Ocean Club.

Every corner of the store attracts the eye with a dazzling assortment of gifts and home accents that command attention; strikingly designed photo frames, candle holders and snuffers, serving pieces to dress every picnic table and dazzling glass accents: a virtual potpourri of tropical and distinctive gifts to grace any home.

The store also stocks a fine selection of creative sterling jewelry, handcrafted with precious gems, sea glass, turquoise and fresh water pearls, which can be found artfully arranged, beckoning to be worn. Find extraordinary gifts for all of your family members and



friends, there's something for everyone on your list, not to forget yourself!

Popular with repeat visitors and locals alike, The Coconut Trading Co. has become the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is

available, with a selection of larger pieces offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee.

The Coconut Trading Co., located in the Marriott Ocean Club lobby. Open daily from 9 am to 9 pm, Sundays until 7 pm. Email: orders@salama.com salama.com □

SITE Sets a Course to Paradise!

Aruba to Host Society of Incentive and Travel Executives' 2009 International Conference

ORANJESTAD - Aruba is thrilled to announce that the Society of Incentive Travel Executives (SITE) has selected the island paradise as the host country for the 2009 International Conference, set for December 3-6. The event will bring together the top minds in incentive travel, a multi-billion dollar global industry, to one of the Caribbean's most celebrated destinations. Aruba promises to be the "host with the most" as it welcomes hundreds of delegates from around the world for three days of educational sessions, vendor showcases, roundtables, networking events, gala dinners and much more. The 2009 International Conference will be held at the two official host hotels, The Westin Aruba Resort and the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa.

Securing this significant conference comes at a perfect time for the destination as Aruba is enjoying increased interest from around the globe. Not only has the island recently undergone over \$350 million in upgrades, expansions and renovations across all aspects of the tourism sector, but arrivals from the U.S. in 2007 were also up 3.27% over the previous year. While worldwide arrivals also saw a remarkable increase with an extraordinary 8.56% spike over 2006, with 753,816 visitors from around the world making Aruba their destination of choice in 2007.

"SITE's membership is rich with innovators who greatly influence not only the evolution of the incentive industry, but also the business outcomes of client organizations," said SITE President Padraic Gilligan. "The SITE International Conference is a superlative forum where professionals from around the world gather to share insights that help them achieve professional goals, surpass client expectations, and have a meaningful and positive impact on economies of destination cities around the world."

"We were thrilled to hear of SITE's decision to make Aruba its host location for the 2009 International Conference," said Minister of Tourism and Transportation, Edison Briesen. "The incentive travel industry is an important one for our island and we are looking forward to showcasing the many things

that sets Aruba apart from the rest of the Caribbean region throughout the conference. We are confident that SITE's commitment to bringing together the most influential minds in this field, coupled with Aruba's dedication to delivering an unmatched travel experience to all our guests, is a recipe for success."

These principals of community, leadership and growth guide SITE's vision — as well as

its commitment to selecting distinct locales for its own events. Aruba, situated in the southern Caribbean, is a tropical paradise that enjoys year-round near perfect weather, less than 20 inches of rainfall annually, extraordinary hotels and resorts, over 200 incredible international restaurants, and an extremely rich heritage. Arubans, renowned for their warmth and hospitality and known as the friendliest in

the Caribbean region, proudly showcase the island's cultural and environmental diversity, and are equally devoted to respecting and preserving the island's pristine marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

"Because Aruba is, without question, one of the top incentive travel destinations in the Caribbean, it is fitting that SITE, the foremost professional association devoted to the incentive travel market, would



choose our island as the host for its 2009 International Conference," said Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, managing director for the Aruba Tourism Authority. □

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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

It Is All In Your Head

by Carlos Viana

A family came in for a consultation; a father, mother, and two children. Usually I do my consultations one by one, but I like having family members present for the first consultation. The boy and girl are squirming in their seats, the wife looks angry, and her husband looks concerned. The adults start listing their complaints. I ask them not to talk and instead start "reading" their pulses, looking at their tongues, inspecting their teeth, looking at their eyes. My nose is telling me their whole medical stories. Finished with their medical assessments I realize that I am looking at a family in poor health.

Both parents acknowledged that they are suffering from fatigue, joint pains and muscle stiffness. Cold hands and feet that sometimes turn into numbness and tingling. Both admit that there had been a marked loss of libido. There are no happy campers in this family.

The husband, a man in his mid-forties, wanting to move his family into a bigger home has been rejected for a new mortgage because high cholesterol was discovered. Now his doctor wants to put him on cholesterol lowering drugs that our patient knows from friends are full of negative side effects. My questions turned up chronic heartburn that sometimes has been diagnosed as "gastritis" and other times as "colitis". He admits that his stomach often feels distended and bloated. Full of gas, he either has constipation or diarrhea.

The wife, a woman in her early forties, sees two doctors regularly. The first a gynecologist has been treating her for her chronic vaginitis. Every three months she complains of

feeling an intense itching, burning sensation, localized in her vagina and vulva. This itching can get so bad that she can hardly walk, let alone drive her car to the doctor to get it treated. The gynecologist always gives her the same pills and creams that help for a while, but the problem always comes back. Meanwhile, she also has problems with menstrual irregularities or kidney or bladder infections.

Her other doctor, the family doctor has been doing all kinds of tests because she is complaining of headaches, depression, lethargy, and is easily irritated. Sometimes she has a dry cough and admits that she has uncontrollable food cravings that are starting to show on her hips. She just does not feel well. Not finding anything wrong, her house doctor has finally recommended that she take tranquilizing pills. When asked why her doctor said: "Well all the tests come back negative. Your problem must be in your head". This is not what she wanted to be told.

Fifteen year old daughter, who had been doing very well in school, is lately complaining she is forgetting facts that she knows she has studied. Her inability to concentrate is affecting her school work. To make matters worse, just as the boys are starting to pay attention to her she is developing skin problems. Usually her problems are just "white" patches on her skin, but sometimes, when she gets nervous, she starts getting red, itchy hives.

Her younger brother, a twelve year old suffers from breathing problems and must take asthma medication. He has a constantly running sinus that if not treated quickly will produce earaches. Multiple

medical tests show the young man to be food and chemical sensitive.

What is going on in this family? Well as soon as the family sat down my nose told me what was wrong. You see they smelled like fresh bread or beer, exactly like yeast. My nose is a great diagnostic tool to detect an overgrowth of "Candida Albicans", a single cell fungus which belongs to the vegetable kingdom. This yeast normally lives on the membranes of the intestines, digestive tract and the vagina, as do billions of friendly germs. When the immune system is strong, they aren't able to break through into the blood stream or deeper tissues causing problems like the ones listed above.

Why has this yeast, which is found normally, become such a problem today? First, the biggest culprit is the widespread use of broad spectrum antibiotics in animals, food and people. Second, high fat, low fiber, and high sugar diets of western societies is destroying our immune systems. Finally, prolonged use of birth control pills, cortisone, cortisone-like drugs, and immunosuppressant drugs are finishing off our immune systems.

In our clinic, Viana Natural Healing Center we begin healing by giving your colon a thorough cleansing with colon hydro-therapy. Colon therapy also does wonders for dehydration, stomach and flu symptoms. Evaluation and preparing a personal nutrition plan that fits your metabolic type is why you would want to consult a Certified Clinical Nutritionist. We always stress replenishing the body's beneficial bacteria with natural supplements such



as acidophilus, a probiotic and herbs like olive leaf or caprylic acid that help control yeast overgrowth. The yeast-like fungus, Candida albicans, is commonly found in the mouth, vagina, and intestinal tract. Candida is a normal inhabitant of humans and normally causes no ill effects. However, among infants and individuals with a low immune system or other illness an overgrowth of yeast sets the stage for a variety of medical conditions.

Get the Point! You cannot detect all pain, happiness or bad feelings in medical tests. Just because complaints are not showing up does not mean they are not "real".

Do not let any doctor tell you your feelings are not legitimate. Educate yourself, question your doctor, listen to your feelings and expect your doctor to listen and respond to your concerns. The word "Doctor" originally meant "teacher". Use your head and call us to learn more about natural solutions to feeling better.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

HEALTH FOR TODAY'S WORLD: 101 Great Ways to Improve YOUR HEALTH, 101 Expert tips to Great Health, Including a chapter by Carlos M. Viana, Aruba's Barefoot Doctor. Available @ Viana Center, Hotel Gift Shops & All Bookstores. □

Lady Luck strikes at Excelsior



PALM BEACH – These people won well over \$1000.00 playing the slots at Excelsior casino

The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from

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Maxi Mix melted MooMba Beach



MOOMBA - Maxi Mix was a big hit last week live at MooMba Beach. This group is a live lounge band with vocals and everyone that has heard them says they are awesome. Lots of people enjoyed the toes-in-the-sand atmosphere as many soothed themselves from a red-hot firecracker New Year's. It was happy hour for young and old and for all the people who were still a little in the party mood after ringing in 2009 on Aruba. □

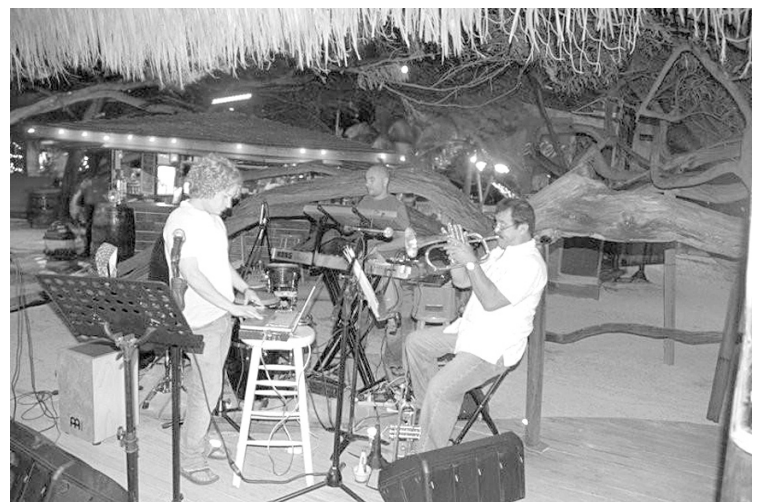
~ Photos by JJ ~

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Massive Fiesta on New Year's Eve

The Village goes Latino to welcome 2009

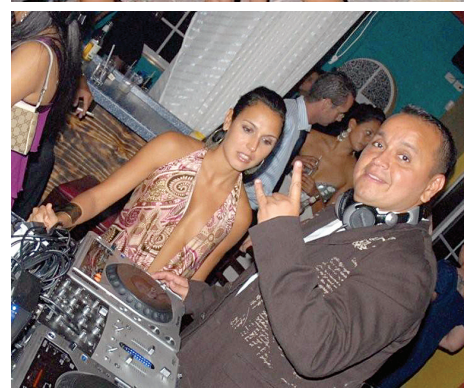


PALM BEACH – Aruba's latest land mark, The Village, was the venue for a wonderful event on New Year's Eve. The square outside Chino Latino was transformed into a live arena where Bands Tsunami and Marisela performed for a packed house. Clearly



everyone was dressed to the occasion. The crowd was almost exclusively made up of people dressed in their finest evening wear. Chino Latino hosted an inside 80/90 party where those fortunate to get in were treated to some old fashioned hits. Good music, great atmosphere, beautiful people, Happy New Year indeed! □

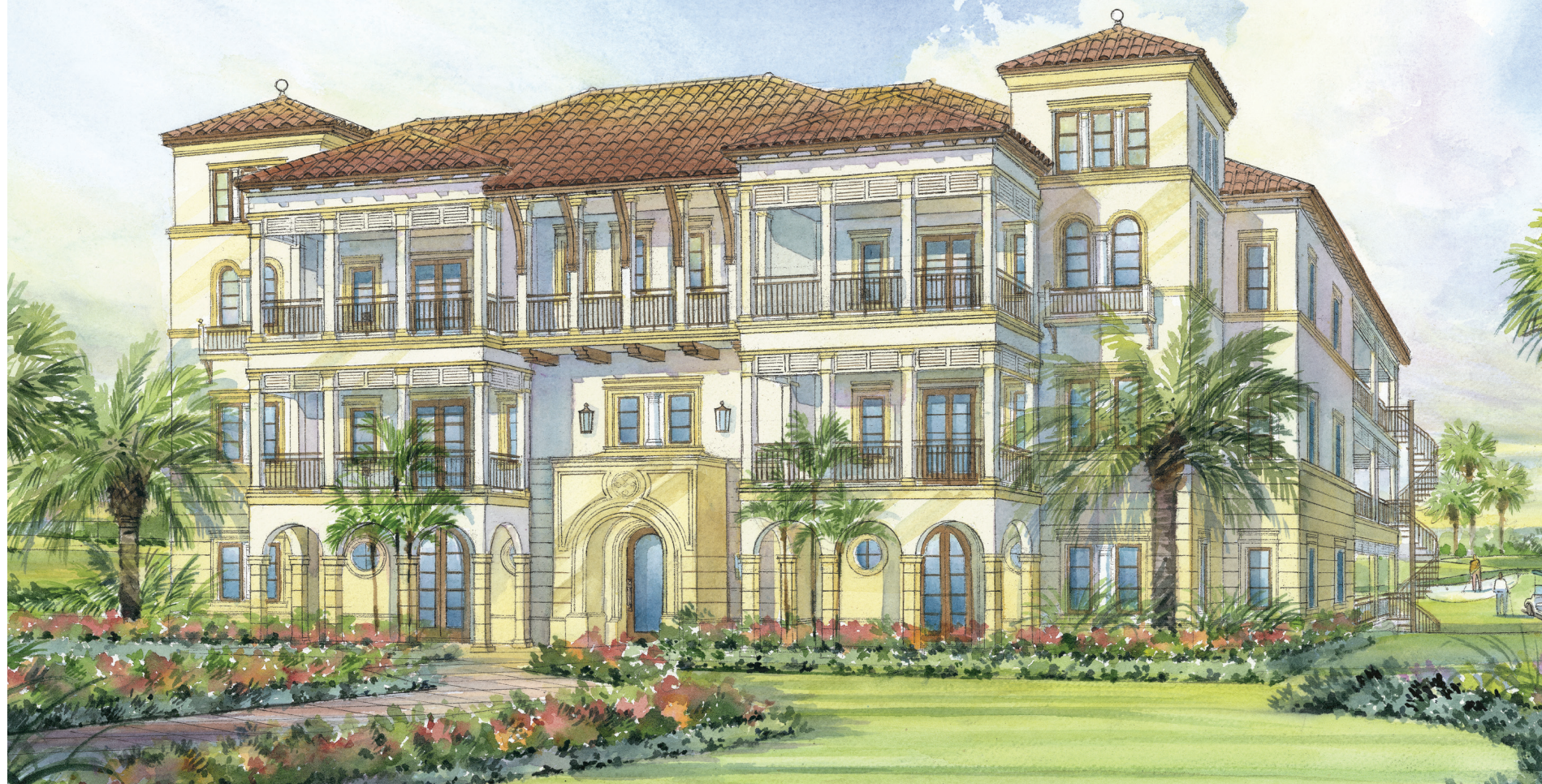
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At the Hyatt Regency Aruba

Michael surprises Jennifer by popping the question

PALM BEACH - Jennifer Albert & Michael Rauscherberger were engaged at the Hyatt Regency Aruba in the Jalepeno Restaurant. They had never been to Aruba before, but Michael got the idea to surprise Jennifer while

on a romantic vacation in Aruba. Good friends Bob and Diane Smith, who are devoted guests of Aruba helped set the couple up for the perfect location for Michael to seal the deal of marriage with his girlfriend.




By coincidence, it was Bob and Diane's anniversary so they were in an adjacent restaurant called Café Piccilo

while Michael popped the question to Jennifer. She said YES, and Bob and Diane, who have been coming to Aruba for more than 30 years and own several weeks a year timeshare, popped in to take pictures and be the first to congratulate the couple. Michael is a Homicide Detective at the Lee County Sheriff's Dept in Ft. Myers, FL and Jennifer is studying to become a nurse at Edison College in Ft. Myers. Congratulations to Jennifer and Michael from Aruba Today and my you return to marry on our beautiful beaches. ☐




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Tri-Parliamentary talks held on Aruba



Continued from Front Page

“That Parliamentary Consultation has the potential of developing into a trench war. It is possible that increased tension, irritations and frustrations can be released and develop, just like last year, into a complete blockade,” Van Bochove and Schinkelshoek stated.

Such a blockade would be a bad start of a year in which agreements of the Round Table Conference (RTC) have to be executed. Van Bochove and Schinkelshoek argued that 2009 was a crucial year in which Curaçao would voice its opinion on the constitutional process through a referendum and in which St. Maarten would have to prove to be a trustworthy island. It is also a year in which the smaller islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be transferred to the Netherlands and in which the Dutch Parliament has to take far-reaching decisions. According to Van Bochove and Schinkelshoek, it is high time to ask ourselves what to do with the Kingdom. “Do we want to make more of it than a paper construction? Is it more for the islands than an insurance policy? Does the Netherlands truly want to invest in the West? Or will the Kingdom partners abuse the system for us to break up fighting?” they stated.

CDA, the party Van Bochove and Schinkelshoek represent in the

Second Chamber, is still willing to give new life to the relations in the Kingdom, the MPs assured. But, they added, “Love is not a one-sided affair.” They said the Netherlands and Netherlands Antilles were not bound together for life. “Curaçao is free to leave the Kingdom. If it wants to stay, it has to stick to the house rules,” the MPs stated.

The house rules are getting stricter, said Van Bochove and Schinkelshoek. There is more focus on good governance, sound financial management, proper law and order. “It is the result of individual, free choices: the choice to become more autonomous in the Kingdom, the choice to hold up your hand in The Hague (to ask for money, ed.), the choice to push ahead independence far ahead,” the MPs said.

“That seems difficult to explain, especially in an atmosphere that is dominated by distrust and irritation. Maybe that is the core problem of decolonization: that the former mother country and the former colonies are not good at understanding each other; that colonial relations have a long-lasting effect,” stated Van Bochove and Schinkelshoek.

The MPs said that unless the Netherlands and Netherlands Antilles were willing to break through this sound barrier, everyone would be left with the same bitter aftertaste as previous decolonization processes of

former colonies such as Indonesia, New Guinea and Suriname.

“People who are hoping that the decolonization process of the islands in the West will be a piece of cake have to prepare for a year full of disappointments. People following the developments over a longer period see that the distance between the Netherlands and Netherlands Antilles is only growing.

“That is not only the fault of Curaçao. St. Maarten is also a stumbling block. And when will Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba start complaining about Dutch meddling? From the sideline Aruba is using the

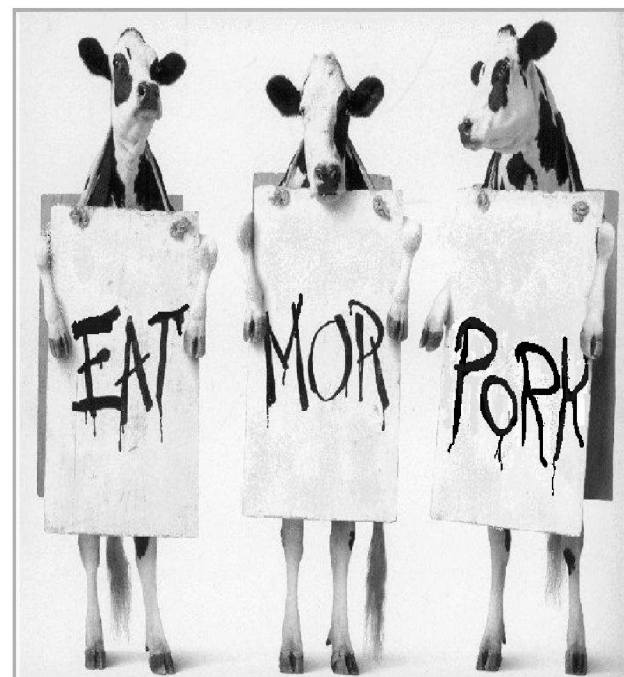


opportunity to profile its separate status time after time,” stated Van Bochove and Schinkelshoek.

The MPs warned that support from society in the Netherlands to financially assist the islands was also diminishing. People are asking

why all that money and why have corruption and mismanagement not been tackled more harshly? For the first time, a large part in the Second Chamber has voted against the development budget for the Antilles. □

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Continued from Front Page

The Kozlov Dance International organization is grateful to the local cultural institute and a number of local companies for their support of the project, helping promote dance and artistic expression on the island.



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Westpunt / Malmok

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Metacorp rings in the New Year with 5 million shot fire cracker



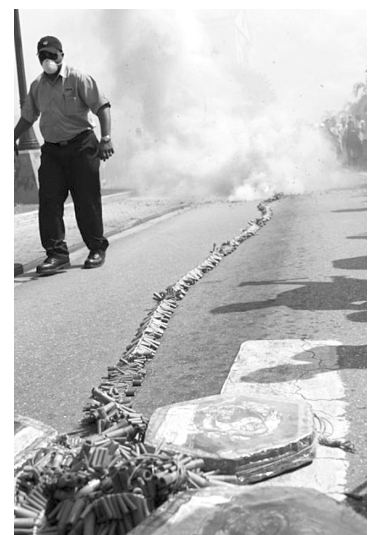
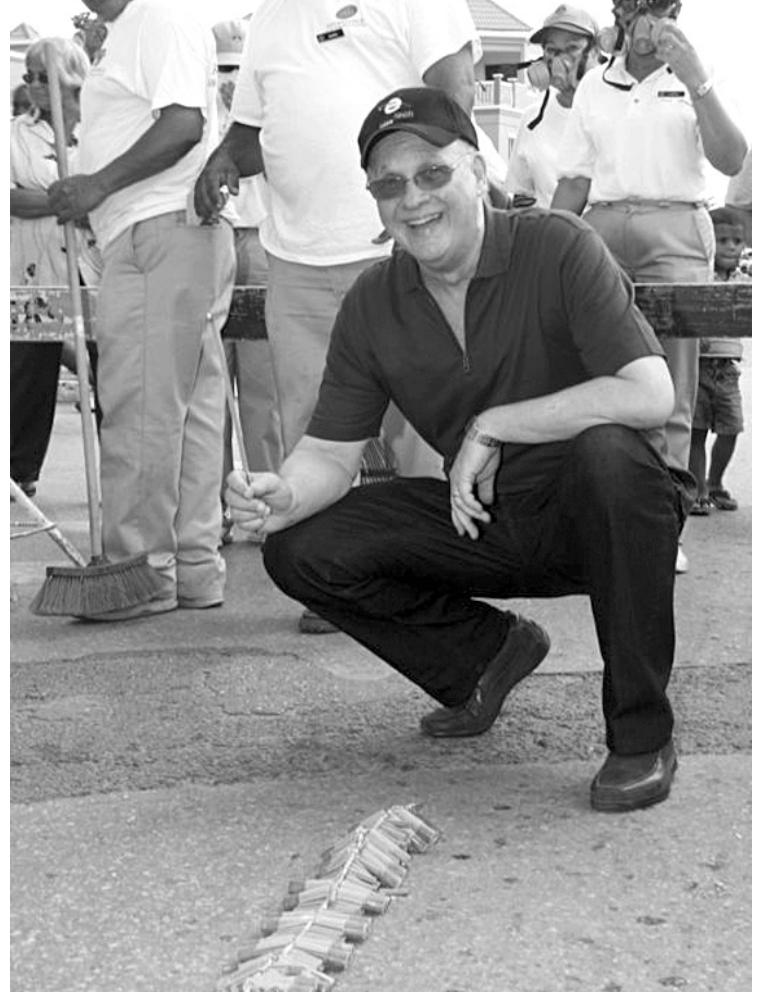
ORANJESTAD - This has become a yearly tradition that is attended by a mass of people every year. "This year was no exception, we lit a 5 million shot firecracker on Wednesday the 31st of December at 1:00pm," so said Zugheila Lindeborg, whom is in charge of Marketing for the Malls. The long red fire cracker was lit at The Cinemas, and the extended till in front of Louis Vuitton. Eduardo de Veer, president of Metacorp lit the firecracker, so as to bid farewell to 2008; and prepare for a 2009 full of blessings, prosperity and health for the Aruban community. □

JetBlue Airways Inaugurates the New Year with a 2009 More for Less Sale

- Flights on sale now from the Northeast to sunny, warm-weather destinations including Florida, California and the Caribbean - To celebrate 2009, value airline JetBlue Airways today announced a New Year's More for Less Sale, with fares to more than 40 destinations in the Northeast, Florida, California and the Caribbean on sale in the New Year. Travel must be booked online at www.jetblue.com by Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Customers can jet between

New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Aruba for as little as \$149 (a) each way. One-way sale fares as low as \$119 (a) are also available between JFK and Bermuda or \$114 (a) to Nassau, Bahamas. New flights to Bogota, Colombia start January 29, 2009, pending receipt of government operating authority, are available for as little as \$99 (a) from Orlando or \$159 (a) from Boston, Buffalo and New York/JFK. New western routes are on sale between Long Beach

and Las Vegas or San Jose for \$39 (a) or between Las Vegas and Burbank or Salt Lake City for \$39 (a). Sale fares must be purchased by 11:59 p.m. MST on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 and require up to a 7-day advance purchase. For most city pairs, travel must take place between January 12, 2009 and April 1, 2009. Travel must be completed by April 1, 2009. Fares are most often found on midweek travel dates. Blackout dates and other restrictions apply (a). □



Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains.

"We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs.

"The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine."

Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred," the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



popular Soba Noodles.

The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains.

Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □



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Come to Moby Dick's for a whale of a time New Whale Species on Aruba

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's was a long time in the making, but the wait is now over. This week the bar went open for business, and the kitchen will be operational this weekend. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is. The interior on both floors is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by a fountain with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre

optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.



Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!



Casa Tua makes the best pizzas; period. a recipe perfected over thirty years

Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours. Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. With a Sicilian-style thin crust, dripping with cheese and fresh-made tomato sauce, this pizza comes with a variety of toppings in the meat and veggie categories. Pasta dishes, full Italian meals like Lasagne and veal Osso Buco, fresh salads and rich desserts are also on the menu.



Casa Tua's famous secret thin crust recipe was handed down by an Italian chef, known locally as "the pizza master", in the French student city of Montpellier in 1969. This recipe has been perfected over the years to such a point where Casa Tua is known on the island these days for the best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm.
Casa Tua Downtown open from 11am to 11pm, on Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.
For more information or reservations
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695



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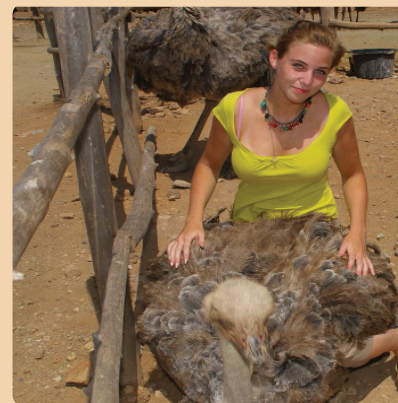
PALM BEACH – Red Sail Sports is excited to let everyone know about its Catamaran Sailing program. A perfect combination of romance and relaxation, the moonlight sail along the scenic Aruban coastline offers food, drinks, music and more. Nibble on tantalizing snacks while you sit back and enjoy the sounds of live Caribbean music. The open bar offers a variety of tropical cocktails, including some Aruban specialties – be sure to ask the friendly crew for a Captain's Special! Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing all day long aboard Red Sail Sports top quality, well maintained catamarans. If a sunset sail is a little late for the kids, you can set sail on Red Sail Sports' fun-filled Luncheon or Afternoon Snorkel Trips. The Snorkel Sails are safe for kids of all ages and brings



guests to all the best snorkeling spots in Aruba, including Aruba's most famous snorkel spot – the wreck of the Antilla where you can see yellowtail snapper, angelfish, blue head wrasse and dozens of other tropical fish. Red Sail Sports also offers a Sunset Sail where you can relax with a cocktail and enjoy the spectacular Aruban sunset. A Sunset Sail is truly the best way to watch the sun go down on your Caribbean holiday. **To make reservations or for more information call Red Sail Sports at 586-1603, visit your hotel concierge or your Red Sail Sports representative at the Hyatt, Allegro, Marriott and Renaissance Resorts.**



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Obama's intel picks short on direct experience

By PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama's decision to fill the nation's top intelligence jobs with two men short on direct experience in intelligence gathering surprised the spy community and signaled the Democrat's intention for a clean break from Bush administration policies.

Former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, an eight-term congressional veteran and administrative expert, is being tapped to head the CIA. Retired Adm. Dennis Blair is Obama's choice to be director of national intelligence, a selection expected for weeks, according to two Democrats who spoke on condition of anonymity because Obama has not officially announced the choices.

The Obama transition team's long delay in selecting CIA and national intelligence directors is a reflection of the complicated demands of

the jobs and Obama's own policies and priorities.

Obama is sending an unequivocal message that controversial administration policies approving harsh interrogations, waterboarding and extraordinary renditions — the secret transfer of prisoners to other governments with a history of torture — and warrantless wiretapping are over, said several officials.

The search for Obama's new CIA chief had been stalled since November, when John Brennan, Obama's transition intelligence adviser, abruptly withdrew his name from consideration. Brennan said his potential nomination had sparked outrage among civil rights and human rights groups, who argued that he had not been outspoken enough in his condemnation of President George W. Bush's policies.

And despite an internal list of former and current CIA officials who had impressive administrative credentials, all either worked in intelligence during the Bush

administration's development of controversial policies on interrogation and torture or earlier, during the months leading up to the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Neither Panetta nor Blair are tainted by associations with Bush administration policies, in large part because they both come from outside the intelligence world. Blair was posted at the CIA for about a year.

Panetta could face tough questions at his nomination hearing about his background in intelligence. California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who will chair the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Monday she was surprised by the pick, and neither was informed nor consulted.

"I know nothing about this, other than what I've read," she said. "My position has consistently been that I believe the agency is best served by having an intelligence professional in charge at this time."

Continued on Next Page

Gaza civilian toll rises; diplomats seek truce



By IBRAHIM BARZAK and JASON KEYSER

Associated Press Writers

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel's expanding ground and air offensive against Gaza's Hamas rulers took a heavy civilian toll Monday, including three young brothers reported killed by a crashing shell and wounded who filled hospital corridors.

Diplomats and European leaders raced around the region in search of a cease-fire, but with Palestinian rocket fire continuing, Israel said it won't stop its crippling 10-day assault until "peace and tranquility" are achieved in southern Israeli towns in the line of fire.

Continued on Page B6

Burris says he's senator — but Dems won't seat him

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats struggled to avert a showdown steeped in race and corruption Monday as a defiant Roland Burris declared, "I'm a United States senator" and flew to the capital to claim President-elect Barack Obama's old seat in Congress.

Even as he sought to pressure fellow Democrats, Burris signaled there were limits to his rebelliousness. "I'm not going to make a scene. I don't want to give you all a circus," he told reporters asking whether he intended to breach protocol by attempting to walk uninvited onto the Senate floor on Tuesday.

The 71-year-old veteran of Illinois politics was still en route from his home state when Majority Leader Harry



Illinois U.S. Senate appointee Roland Burris arrives at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in Linthicum, Md., Monday, Jan. 4, 2009.

Associated Press

Reid announced he would not be permitted to take his seat when other new lawmakers are sworn into office.

Continued on Page B3

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President-elect Barack Obama, flanked by Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner, left, and Council of Economic Advisers Chair-designate Christina Romer, meets with members of his economic team at his transition office in Washington, Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

OBAMA'S INTEL

Continued from Page B1

A former senior CIA official who advises Obama defended the surprise choice of Panetta, who has no direct intelligence experience beyond a two-year stint in the mid-1960s as a U.S. Army lieutenant. The official said Panetta had been a consumer of CIA intelligence when he was at the White House. He said he was selected for his administrative,

Associated Press management and political skills which will allow him both to control and advocate for the agency.

He said Panetta will rely on the expertise of CIA officers to balance his lack of personal intelligence experience.

Veterans of the CIA were caught off guard by the selection.

"I'm at a loss," said Robert Grenier, a former director of the CIA's counterterrorism center and 27-year veteran

of the agency who now is managing director of Kroll, a security consulting company.

The lack of intelligence experience puts Panetta at "a tremendous disadvantage," Grenier told The Associated Press in an interview.

"Intelligence by its very nature is an esoteric world. And right now the agency is confronted with numerous pressing challenges overseas, and to have no background is a serious deficit. I don't say that he can't succeed. It may that he can compensate for the obvious deficit."

John Hamre, the president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, served with Panetta during the Clinton administration. He said Panetta's experience as a former Cabinet member will help elevate the CIA's status inside the White House. The CIA director was once the president's main intelligence adviser. That role shifted in 2004 to the newly created national

intelligence director.

Obama "has drawn a former Cabinet-level official to take a sub-Cabinet position, which means for a much more powerful CIA in the constellation of intelligence agencies," Hamre said.

Panetta was director of the Office of Management and Budget and a longtime congressman from California.

As White House Chief of Staff during the Clinton administration, he spearheaded the internal effort to find a new CIA chief that led to the selection of John Deutsch in 1995. Deutsch served for 18 months.

After he resigned, CIA security officers found classified material on his home computer, a violation of security procedures.

Panetta also served on the Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan panel that released a report at the end of 2006 with dozens of recommendations for reversing course in the war. With his wife, Sylvia,

Panetta directs the Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy, based at California State University, Monterey Bay. The university that he helped establish is on the site of the former U.S. Army base at Fort Ord. Panetta also served for two years on a review board that helped oversee two major reports on the history of sex abuse in U.S. Catholic dioceses. Obama's selection of Blair, a former U.S. Pacific Command chief, had been expected.

Blair served in the Navy for 34 years and was chief of the U.S. Pacific Command during the Sept. 11 attacks. Blair also is a China expert, and he was an associate director for military support at the CIA.

Blair and Panetta would replace retired Adm. Mike McConnell and former Air Force Gen. Michael Hayden, respectively. Both men had said they would stay in their positions if asked. □

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BURRIS

Continued from Page B1

Burris "has not been certified by the state of Illinois" Reid said, a reference to incomplete paperwork that barely begins to describe the dispute.

While Burris has not been accused of any wrongdoing, he was named to the Senate last week by Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who faces charges of having attempted to sell the seat.

Senate officials said it was possible Reid would try and have Burris' case referred to the Rules Committee for review, a move that would effectively sidetrack the issue while the complicated political and legal situation in Illinois could be sorted out. They spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss possible developments.

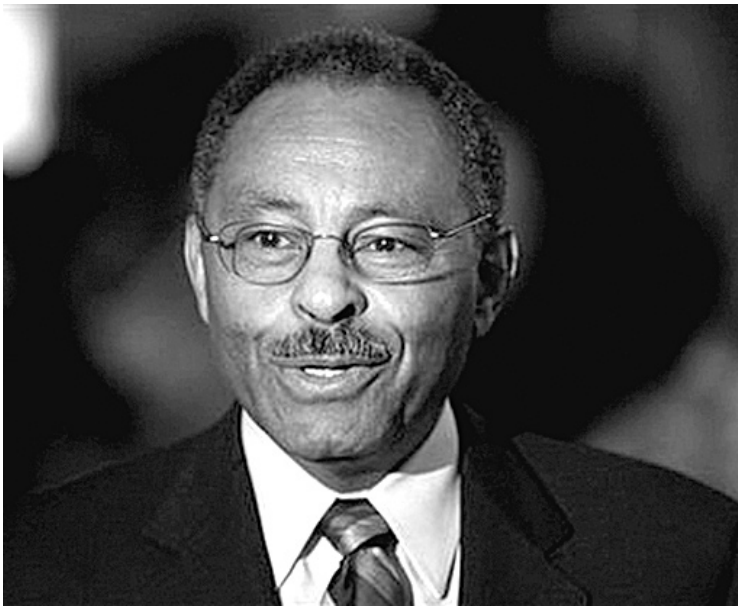
Reid, D-Nev., had appeared to leave open the possibility of a compromise over the weekend after failing to persuade Blagojevich to leave the seat vacant. Burris is to meet privately on Wednesday with the majority leader in his office a few paces off the Senate floor.

Burris, who is black, downplayed the issue of race at a news conference before boarding a flight from Chicago to Washington — even though supporters have given it prominence.

"I cannot control my supporters. I have never in my life, in all my years of being elected to office, thought anything about race," he said. He said repeatedly during the day that he is a senator, but in fact he is not and cannot be unless he is administered the oath of office.

Other controversy aside, Democrats privately expressed concern that Burris would not be able to hold the seat in a special election that must be held in 2010. Reid has denied that political calculations are involved, but one Democratic official suggested that one potential outcome would be for Burris to be seated and pledge to retire in 2010.

Burris sidestepped the issue at an airport news conference before leaving Illinois, saying, "I can't negotiate in the press."



Illinois U.S. Senate appointee Roland Burris talks with the media after arriving at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in Linthicum, Md., Monday, Jan. 4, 2009. Burris will face a showdown on Capitol Hill about whether he'll succeed President-elect Barack Obama in Congress after being appointed last week by embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

Associated Press

The Illinois seat was one of two in dispute on the eve of the ceremonial opening of the new Congress.

In Minnesota, the state Canvassing Board certified results showing Democrat Al Franken winning a recount over Republican Sen. Norm Coleman, but a legal challenge probably will keep that race in limbo for now.

Reid called Franken the winner — in a claim that Republican National Committee chairman Mike Duncan swiftly rejected.

Despite losing several seats last November, Senate Republicans have the ability to block any quick attempt by Democrats to allow Franken to be sworn in, and it was not clear whether Reid intended to press the matter on Tuesday. Coleman's term has expired, meaning Minnesota, like Illinois, could be represented by only one senator for an undetermined period.

Reid and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky arranged an early evening meeting to discuss the two seats.

The uncertain Illinois script played out as a federal judge granted prosecutors more time to seek a formal indictment of Blagojevich,

and state lawmakers marched methodically toward

impeachment proceedings that could result in his removal from office. He was arrested last year and charged with trying to sell Obama's seat.

Blagojevich appointed Burris to fill take Obama's former Senate seat last week, defying the wishes of Senate Democrats who had warned that anyone he named would be tainted by association. His selection of the 71-year-old former officeholder instantly exposed rifts among Democrats, evident at a send-off Burris received in a Chicago church on Sunday night.

Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., called the Senate "last bastion of plantation politics," and said blacks had been "excluded systematically for too long." There were mounting legal complications, as well.

While Blagojevich has signed formal appointments papers, Jesse White, the Illinois secretary of state, has not, and Senate rules require that signature.

Burris, in turn, has gone to court hoping to win an order for White to sign the necessary paperwork, and has also threatened to sue to take his seat in the Senate. □

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Congressmen sound off against SEC in Madoff affair

By MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON—Republican and Democratic House members said Monday that the alleged \$50 billion fraud involving Wall Street figure Bernard Madoff reflects deep, systemic problems at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Inspector General H. David Kotz said he is so concerned about the SEC's failure to uncover Madoff's alleged Ponzi scheme that the IG is expanding the inquiry called for last month by SEC Chairman Christopher Cox. Cox had pushed the blame squarely onto the SEC's career staff for the failure to detect what Madoff was doing.

At the first congressional hearing on the scandal, Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., called for Congress to create a regulatory structure "for the 21st century."

The House Financial Services Committee is trying to determine how, despite warnings back to at least 1999 to SEC staff members, Madoff continued to operate his alleged scheme.

"Clearly, our regulatory system ... failed miserably and we must rebuild it now," said Rep. Paul Kanjorski, D-Pa. Rep. Paul Hodes, D-N.H., said the Madoff scandal is like "the cherry on a bad sundae." Kotz said that he will examine the operations of the SEC's enforcement and inspection divisions and will make



Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Inspector General H. David Kotz, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, before the House Financial Services Committee.

Associated Press

recommendations, steps beyond what Cox had called for.

Thousands of individuals — including ordinary people and Hollywood celebrities — as well as big hedge funds, international banks and charities around the globe lost money investing with Madoff. A prominent French financier who had entrusted his fortune and his clients' money to Madoff was found dead at his office in New York on Dec. 23, an apparent suicide.

Federal prosecutors said in court Monday that the 70-year Madoff violated bail conditions by mailing about \$1 million worth of jewelry and other assets to relatives

and should be jailed without bail.

"I am a human face on this tragedy," said Allan Goldstein, a retired New York textile distributor who testified at Monday's House hearing. Goldstein, 76, said he lost his entire life savings with Madoff and had to cash in his life insurance policies to cover his mortgage.

"Everything I worked for over a 50-year career is gone," Goldstein said. He said he had no reason to question the steady returns of 8 percent to 12 percent a year that Madoff's firm told him he was earning. The Securities Investor Protection Corp. and the trustee handling the liquidation

of Madoff's firm said Monday they mailed more than 8,000 claim forms to customers on Friday.

SIPC's president, Stephen Harbeck, faced pointed questioning at the hearing as lawmakers spelled out the math: an estimated \$50 billion in losses from Madoff, \$1.6 billion available to SIPC. The industry-funded organization, created by Congress to protect investors when a brokerage firm fails, can provide funds up to a maximum of \$500,000 for each customer.

The SIPC shortfall will only worsen the distrust of investors, already deepened by the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression,

said Rep. Gary Ackerman, D-N.Y. His district encompasses the affluent north shore of Long Island, home to many of Madoff's alleged victims.

Harbeck testified that the estimated \$50 billion in losses includes an unknown measure of "false profits" not legitimately earned by Madoff investors — but on which the investors have been paying income taxes.

Lawmakers, many of whom had received calls from constituents and charities in their districts that lost money, jumped on the opportunity to show concern. The hearing was held on the final day of the current Congress.

Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., insisted that all five SEC commissioners should tender their resignations to President-elect Barack Obama.

Republicans warned against rushing to new regulation as a response to the SEC breakdown.

"While the failures of regulatory and private-sector due diligence exposed by the Madoff matter are obvious, they do not lead me to conclude at this stage of the inquiry that what is needed are broad new legislative or regulatory mandates on the rest of the securities industry," said Rep. Spencer Bachus of Alabama, the senior Republican on the panel.

"What we may have in the Madoff case is not necessarily a lack of enforcement and oversight tools, but a failure to use them," he said.

The Madoff scandal allegedly involves a Ponzi scheme, in which people are persuaded to invest in a fraudulent operation. The early investors are paid their returns out of money put in by later investors. It is named after Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant to Boston who worked as a waiter, bank teller and nurse before he talked investors into sinking their money into a complex — and, it turned out, bogus — scheme involving postal currency. His swindle in 1919-20 cheated thousands of people out of \$10 million. He was sent to prison for mail fraud and, in 1934, deported.

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Former policeman, teen arrested after Ga. standoff

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press Writer

MADISON, Ga. — A 13-hour hostage standoff at a Georgia motel ended peacefully Monday when a former South Carolina police officer and a teenage girl surrendered, freeing his estranged wife and infant son.

FBI spokesman Steve Lazarus said 25-year-old David Dietz surrendered around 9:15 a.m. at the Red Roof Inn off Interstate 20 about 60 miles east of Atlanta. Jamie Lynn Burgess, 17, was also taken into custody at the time.

The two had been holed up in a second floor room with the infant, Allim David Dietz, and Dietz's estranged wife, 29-year-old Eva Arce-Perez. Two shots were fired at law enforcement agents from the room Sunday night.

The next morning, Dietz stepped onto the walkway outside the motel room holding the baby in his arms as he surrendered. Burgess exited the room with her hands in the air.

Burgess helped Dietz in the kidnapping, West Columbia, S.C., Police Major Jackie Brothers said.

"It's our understanding they arrived together, they waited together and when the family and friends arrived home, she actively participated in the abduction," Brothers said.

Police said Burgess and

Dietz were acquaintances but wouldn't elaborate on their relationship.

Burgess was set to return to South Carolina Monday night, where she would be charged with kidnapping, carjacking and assault with intent to kill, Brothers said. She won't face federal charges because she's a minor, Lazarus said.

Dietz, who wore a black uniform emblazoned with the word "police" during the abduction, was being held in federal custody in Macon and would face federal charges of kidnapping in South Carolina and federal charges of assaulting a federal officer in Georgia since shots were fired at FBI agents, Lazarus said. He said they hoped to bring Dietz before a federal magistrate on Tuesday.

He also faces state charges including kidnapping, assault with intent to kill and carjacking in South Carolina and five counts of aggravated assault in Georgia, authorities said.

Police said Arce-Perez and the baby were abducted from their home in Columbia, S.C., Saturday evening.

A missing child alert was issued, and authorities learned Dietz might be headed toward Atlanta.

The standoff started Sunday night after Georgia State Patrol officers spotted the car mentioned in the alert in the

motel parking lot.

It wasn't the former police officer's first run-in with the law. South Carolina police reports showed authorities were called twice last year to domestic disturbances between Dietz and Arce-Perez.

Police in West Columbia were called to the home where Arce-Perez lived in December after the woman claimed Dietz threatened her.

"She stated that he called her wanting to see the baby even if he had to kick the door in," West Columbia chief Dennis Tyndall said.

An incident report filed in May by the Richland County, S.C. Sheriff's Department says Dietz was arrested for criminal domestic violence after he tried to force then-pregnant Arce-Perez to leave her apartment with him and pointed a gun at her brother, threatening to shoot if he tried to intervene. A judge dismissed charges in that case when Arce-Perez didn't show up for a hearing, said department spokesman Chris Cowan.

Columbia police spokesman Brick Lewis said Dietz was hired by the department in June 2006 but resigned in October 2006 without giving a reason and on good terms.

Dietz also worked as a probation officer until August 2007, said Pete O'Boyle, a spokesman for the state's probation department. □



A police officer carries an infant to a waiting ambulance following a standoff between a former police officer and authorities at a motel in Madison, Ga., Monday, Jan. 5, 2009. Authorities say David Dietz, 25, kidnapped the infant and two women on Saturday night in West Columbia.

Associated Press

Search begins for Kansas boy missing 10 years

By ROXANA HEGEMAN

Associated Press Writer

EL DORADO, Kan. — A missing Kansas boy's adoptive parents, who failed to report his disappearance for nearly a decade, are considered "people of interest" in the case as authorities expand their search nationwide, a sheriff said Monday.

Investigators were focused on finding Adam Herrman, who was 11 when he disappeared in 1999 from a mobile home park in Towanda where he lived, Butler County Sheriff Craig Murphy said. Authorities only recently learned he was missing, and would not say whether they believed he was still alive.

"We are working it as if it is a death — but we are not leaning one way or the other," Murphy said.

His parents, Doug and Valerie Herrman, have not been arrested or charged. Asked why, Murphy replied: "We are not ready is an honest and upfront answer."

Earlier media reports said Adam had a history of running away, but Murphy said investigators have not confirmed that. The boy was adopted by the Herrmans when he was 2 1/2 years old. The family has cooperated with investigators, he said.

Murphy said a search of the now empty lot where the family's mobile home once stood gave investigators one answer they sought, but he did not elaborate other than to say no human remains were found. Murphy's office did not receive a missing persons report until contacted recently by Sedgwick County's exploited and missing children's unit. □

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GAZA TRUCE*Continued from Page B1*

The operation's ground phase, which began Saturday with a withering round of artillery fire, was going according to plan, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Avi Benayahu told Israeli TV. Israeli forces were sweeping through Palestinian rocket launching locations near the border and the militants were suffering many casualties, he said.

But no militant casualties were seen Monday by an Associated Press reporter at Shifa Hospital, the Gaza Strip's largest. Instead, the hospital was overwhelmed with civilians. Bodies were two to a morgue drawer, and the wounded were being treated in hallways because beds were full.

Gaza health officials reported more than 550 Palestinian dead and about 2,500 wounded since Israel began the campaign 10 days ago, including 200 civilians. U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes told reporters in New York on Monday that U.N. officials believe at least 500 people have been killed in the fighting and that as many as 25 percent are civilians.

At least 20 Palestinian children were killed during the day, said Dr. Moaiya Hassanain, a

health official. Most confirmed deaths have been civilians.

The three young brothers from the Samouni family died in an attack on a town outside Gaza City, a Gaza health official said.

Five Israelis have been killed during the offensive, including a soldier in the ground operation. Heavy Israeli casualties could undermine what has so far been overwhelming public support for the operation.

The three brothers, reportedly were killed in an artillery strike Monday, were carried to a cemetery in an emotional funeral. One of them, Issa Samouni, 3, was wrapped in a white cloth, showing only his pale, yellow face. A man delicately placed him in a dark grave cut into the earth.

In one of the first major gunbattles of the ground campaign, Israeli troops and Hamas militants clashed at close quarters on the outskirts of the crowded Gaza City neighborhood of Shajaiyeh, Israeli defense officials said.

Troops seized control of three six-story buildings on the outskirts, climbing to rooftop gun and observation positions. Residents were locked in their rooms and soldiers took away their cell phones, a neighbor said, quoting a relative who



From right to left, European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero Waldner, Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, Israel's Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner and EU Foreign policy chief Javier Solana pose for a photograph at Livni's office in Jerusalem, Monday, Jan. 5, 2009. Israeli forces pounded Gaza Strip houses, mosques and smuggling tunnels on Monday from the air, land and sea, killing at least seven children as they pressed a bruising offensive against Palestinian militants.

Associated Press

called before his phone was seized.

"The army is there, firing in all directions," said Mohammed Salmai, a 29-year-old truck driver. "All we can do is take clothes to each other to keep ourselves warm and pray to God that if we die, someone will find our bodies under the rubble."

Fighter jets attacked houses, weapons storage sites, a pair of mosques and smuggling

tunnels, as they have since the start of the offensive Dec. 27. Israel has attacked several mosques during the campaign, saying they were used to store weapons.

In another strategic move, Israeli forces seized a main highway in Gaza, slicing the territory in two.

Details also emerged of an attempt by Hamas fighters to capture Israeli soldiers hours after the ground operation began. As infantrymen advanced up a strategic hill before dawn Sunday, militants emerged from a tunnel and tried to drag two Israeli infantrymen inside, according to Israeli defense officials.

The Israelis fought off the attempt, but one soldier was killed in an ensuing firefight. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the incident had not been made public.

Hamas already holds one Israeli soldier, captured in June 2006, and another would be an important bargaining chip.

Israeli forces detained 80 Palestinians — some of them suspected Hamas members — and transferred several to Israel for questioning, said military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to release the information.

The Gaza City area was rocked by shelling from both

sides as gunboats in the sea and artillery and tanks closing in from the east unloaded thunderous fire.

After dark, the shelling reached deeper into residential areas. Fireballs lit up the horizon to the east, setting off blazes on the ground and silhouetting Gaza's tall buildings. Tracer fire ripped across the skyline. The State Department said the U.S. was pressing for a cease-fire that would include a halt to rocket attacks and an arrangement for reopening crossing points on the border with Israel, said spokesman Sean McCormack. A third element would address the tunnels into Gaza from Egypt through which Hamas has smuggled materials and arms. President George W. Bush emphasized "Israel's desire to protect itself."

"The situation now taking place in Gaza was caused by Hamas," he said.

The deputy head of Hamas' politburo in Syria, Moussa Abu Marzouk, rejected the U.S. proposal, telling the AP the U.S. plan seeks to impose "a de facto situation" and encourages Israel to continue its attacks on Gaza.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who unsuccessfully proposed a two-day truce last week, met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who lost control of Gaza to Hamas in June 2007. □

Blast hits British Columbia natural gas facility

By JEREMY HAINSWORTH

Associated Press Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) - Police are investigating the fourth bombing of an EnCana natural gas facility in northeastern British Columbia, authorities said Monday.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said EnCana gas line workers discovered a damaged metering shed on Sunday at a well head near the community of Tomslake.

Investigators say this appears to be a deliberate attack, similar to three other blasts in October at Encana operations in the same northeastern British Columbia area, about 750 miles northeast of Vancouver.

No one was hurt in the latest incident, no gas leaked and the scene has been secured.

Overall pipeline production in the area continues, but the specific site has been closed down, EnCana spokesman Alan Boras said.

No one has been arrested and damage was minimal when bombs were set off at three Encana pipeline installations over several days beginning Oct. 11.

Boras said there was no leak or danger to the public in the latest explosion.

"It's a very serious situation," he said. "We would like to see it stopped."

He said security has been increased at company facilities.

Police believe whoever is behind the attacks is from the local area and has a grievance with EnCana. The RCMP has its Integrated National Security Enforcement Team and an explosives disposal unit investigating.

The explosions were preceded by a letter that called oil and gas companies, and EnCana in particular, "terrorists" and demanded an immediate halt to operations.

The blasts put a spotlight on local concerns over the rapid growth of the industry in the region, particularly projects containing sour gas. The gas contains hydrogen sulfide, which can be lethal if breathed even in small amounts.

British Columbia has more than 4,000 producing oil and gas wells, all in the northeastern part of the province, and the industry has seen massive expansion in recent years. □



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UN envoy: Nations must take Guantanamo inmates

By WILLIAM J. KOLE

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria — More nations must take in Guantanamo inmates once the U.S.-run prison closes, the U.N.'s torture investigator said Monday, insisting that many were held simply because they were "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Manfred Nowak told Austrian radio he hopes more countries will set aside their misgivings and show solidarity with the incoming government of President-elect Barack Obama, who has vowed to shut the detention center in eastern Cuba.

Most European nations have refused to accept Guantanamo inmates, citing national security concerns. Nowak told public broadcaster ORF he understands their reluctance, "since the U.S. government for many years represented (the prisoners) as the most dangerous ever captured."

Yet many are harmless, Nowak said, appealing to EU nations to think of them as refugees and treat them as though they had fled persecution and gone directly to Europe to seek safe haven.

"Many (detainees) were clearly in the wrong place at the wrong time, and simply fell into the hands of Pakistani

bounty hunters paid by the Americans," Nowak said. "They had nothing to do with Sept. 11."

U.S. officials did not immediately react to Nowak's insistence that most detainees are harmless.

Officials from France, Germany, Portugal and Switzerland have all recently said they are looking into accepting detainees from the U.S. prison, and Albania and Sweden acknowledge they have already taken in a few inmates.

But Australia said Saturday it has twice rejected a U.S. request to do so, and Britain said it hasn't yet been asked.

Croatia, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway are among other EU countries who have said they also haven't gotten any formal requests from Washington to accept detainees.

"We do not think it is up to us" to house them, said Rob Dekker, a spokesman for the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Gordon Duguid said the U.S. government has renewed requests with a number of unidentified countries in recent months in a bid to resettle detainees.

"While I can't discuss the

specifics of our bilateral negotiations with our friends and allies on this issue, we have been in contact with dozens of countries about resettling those detainees at Guantanamo Bay eligible for transfer or release," he said.

Nowak pressed his own country, Austria, to take in some of the roughly 250 prisoners still held — even though the government has ruled that out.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has called for proposals for transferring the remaining detainees, amid concerns that some could be persecuted if sent back to their home nations.

Most come from Yemen, but others are from Azerbaijan, Algeria, Afghanistan, Chad, China and Saudi Arabia. Algeria has taken back nearly a dozen detainees, although others expressly asked not to be sent home, fearing recriminations.

Some have been held without charge since the prison camp opened in 2002 to hold so-called "enemy combatants" accused of links to the al-Qaida terror network or the Taliban.

The Pentagon has said it plans to try about 80 prisoners at military commissions, but more than 100 are considered



In this December 29, 2007, file photo, former Guantanamo terror prisoner David Hicks is escorted to reception before walking out of the Yatala high security prison in the southern city of Adelaide, Australia. Hicks on Sunday December 21, 2008, became a completely free man for the first time in seven years when the final restrictions stemming from terrorism allegations ended.

Associated Press

too dangerous to let go and won't be prosecuted.

About 60 are slated for transfer from Guantanamo, but the Pentagon says they can't go home because their governments won't accept them, might release them and create a security risk for the

U.S., or might even torture them.

Meanwhile Monday, a federal appeals court in New York ruled that the U.S. government can keep secret the identities of detainees who allegedly were abused at Guantanamo



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Toyota, Honda lead declines in Dec. auto sales

By **TOM KRISHER**,
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — Toyota and Honda's U.S. sales fell more than their U.S. competitors' in December, with Toyota's 37 percent decline and Honda's 35 percent drop showing the Japanese company's popular fuel-efficient models were little help as consumers steered clear of showrooms due to the dismal economy.

Ford Motor Co.'s U.S. sales fell 32 percent in December, while General Motors Corp.'s dropped 31 percent. Chrysler LLC and other automakers were to report their U.S. sales for December and 2008 later Monday.

Ford's sales for 2008 fell 21 percent from a year earlier, keeping the Dearborn automaker in third place in the U.S. auto sales race, falling behind Toyota Motor Corp. for the second straight year.

Toyota's 2008 sales fell 16 percent to 2.22 million, compared with Ford's 1.98 million. Detroit-based GM's 2008 sales totaled 2.95 million, down 23 percent from the year before. Honda Motor Co.'s 2008 sales fell 8.2 percent.

Analysts expected auto sales industrywide to drop up to 40 percent in December as consumers remain uncertain about the economy and their jobs.

The auto Web site Edmunds.com predicted sales for the full year will total just over 13 million, down 18 percent from 2007 and the lowest level since 1992.

Subaru of America Inc. said its U.S. sales crept higher in 2008, poising the Japanese company to be the only major automaker with a yearly sales increase. Subaru's U.S. sales rose by 0.3 percent to 187,699 vehicles from 187,208 in 2007, as consumers snapped up its top-selling Forester and Impreza models.

Ford said it sold 138,458 light vehicles last month, down from 204,787 in December 2007. But even though its sales were

dismal, Ford said it expects to fare better than the industry overall.

Meanwhile, GM sold 220,030 light vehicles compared with 319,837 in December 2007. The recent month's results were boosted by heavy sales incentives, including financing offers announced near the end of the month after the Treasury Department said it would give \$5 billion in federal aid to GM's ailing financing arm, GMAC LLC.

The sales slump continues to mean good deals for consumers, though. Aaron Bragman, automotive marketing research analyst for IHS Global Insight in Troy, Mich., said large incentives such as zero-percent financing and rebates will continue well into 2009 as

automakers try everything they can to boost sales.

Full-size truck incentives ran from \$7,000 to \$8,000 in December, and Bragman expects that to continue all year as the economy fails to improve.

"You look in the paper and the deals on brand new GM pickups are astonishing," he said. "The discount that you get buys a heck of a lot of gasoline."

One automaker, Hyundai Motor America, is trying to woo skittish buyers by promising to let them return cars free for up to a year if they lose their jobs and can't make the payments.

The "Hyundai Assurance Program" applies to customers stricken by misfortune outside of their control, such as losing their job, becoming disabled

or losing their drivers license for medical reasons. It covers depreciation up to \$7,500.

Similar bold moves might be necessary throughout the year. Global Insight predicts that U.S. sales will drop from 13 million in 2008 to 10.3 million this year as the economy continues to sputter.

While that may bring deals for consumers, it's bad news for the automakers. GM and Chrysler LLC were forced to go to the government for loans to hold off bankruptcy, and Ford says it may need government money if sales don't recover in 2009.

But Bragman said the sales drops are not unique to the U.S.-based automakers.

"This is a domestic market problem because we see the same kinds of declines at Toyota

and Honda as we see at GM and Ford," he said. "It's not a matter of getting financing. It's a matter of getting shoppers."

Toyota said it sold 141,949 vehicles in December, down from 224,399 a year earlier. Sales of the Prius hybrid fell 45 percent as gas prices fell from their record highs in July.

Honda sold 86,085 vehicles last month, down from 131,792 a year earlier but up from 76,233 in November. The month-over-month improvement was a trend seen by most automakers.

Ford said it sold 43,087 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury cars last month, down 26 percent from December 2007. The company sold 90,418 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury light trucks in December, 34 percent fewer than the same month a year earlier. George Pipas, Ford's top sales analyst, predicted that passenger cars will outsell trucks in the U.S. this year for the first time since 2000 as consumers continue to be wary of high gasoline prices.

Ford said there was a glimmer of hope in its sales figures. Its market share was 14.6 percent, up 0.7 percentage point from December 2007 and the first time since 1997 that the company has seen its share go up three straight months.

It also sold 195,823 Focus compacts in 2008, the highest total since 2004 and a 13 percent increase from 2007.

"This is a strong ending to end a very challenging year," Jim Farley, Ford's group vice president for marketing, said in a statement.

GM, which said its market share held steady at 22 percent for the year, said its December car sales totaled 87,506, down 25 percent from the year-ago period. But the total included a 43 percent jump in Malibu sales and a 19 percent increase in Impala sales.

December light truck sales fell 25 percent to 132,524 units and included a 66 percent plunge in demand for the TrailBlazer SUV and a 34 percent drop in Sierra sales. □

Obama seeks swift passage of fiscal package

By **David Alexander and Jeremy Pelofsky**

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama pressed congressional leaders on Monday to pass his huge spending and tax-cut package amid signs the centerpiece of his economic stimulus plan may face delays.

"We are in a very difficult spot," Obama told reporters after a meeting his economic advisers.

"The situation is bad. The situation is getting worse," Obama said he wants to sign a bill approving his economic stimulus package -- now put at about \$775 billion over two years -- shortly after taking office on January 20.

He took the time to personally push the proposal on Monday, meeting with top leaders on Capitol Hill in an effort to forge bipartisan support for the deal that some Republicans are now questioning.

"It is clear that we have to act and we have to act now to address this crisis and break the momentum of the recession, or the next few years could be dramatically worse," he said.

Earlier Obama met Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, and said new economic jobs data expected this week would likely be "sobering" and further underscore the need for action.

The current U.S. recession began in December 2007 and, according to a Reuters poll, economists are expecting Labor Department data on Friday to show payroll jobs dropping by 500,000, bringing job losses for 2008 to about 2.5 million.

Obama moved to fill another key job in his administration. He picked Leon Panetta, former chief of staff for President Bill Clinton, to head

the CIA, according to Democratic officials.

And Obama's fundraising prowess was highlighted again in a new donor report that showed the president-elect -- who brought in a record-shattering \$639 million during his presidential campaign -- was on track to raise a targeted \$12 million to cover transition costs.

BIG PLANS

But the dollar figures in focus on Monday as Obama made his first visit to the Capitol since the November 4 election were much higher.

The new Congress, which convenes on Tuesday, is expected to wrestle with Obama's recession-fighting stimulus package as its first major order of business.

Obama's fellow Democrats had hoped to have such a package ready for the new president to sign as soon as he takes office. But they now say it will take at least a month or so longer to put together the bipartisan support needed to clear a possible Senate Republican roadblock. Republicans -- who have objected to government moves to bail out the financial industry and U.S. automakers -- are raising concerns the Obama stimulus plan may presage a new era of uncontrolled government spending.

But they are certain to face public pressure, following the widespread repudiation of Republicans in the November elections, to find common ground with Obama and clear the way for passage of a stimulus package. Obama was to meet later on Monday with Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid and then hold talks with key lawmakers of both parties, including Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and House Republican Leader John Boehner. □

Monaco's Prince Albert heads to Antarctica

MONACO— Monaco's climate-crusading ruler, Prince Albert II, left on Monday for Antarctica on a month-long expedition to view the impact of global warming at the Earth's southern tip, his palace said.

Prince Albert's trip, which follows a similar journey to the North Pole in 2006, will take in 26 scientific outposts, with meetings planned with climate change experts from 18 countries, a statement said.

The 50-year-old monarch left Punta Arenas in Chile on Monday bound for King George's islands, northeast of Antarctica, and was scheduled to arrive at the South Pole on January 14.

The palace said Albert, who made the environment a priority after acceding to the throne of his tiny Mediterranean principality in 2005, "has decided to take stock of the situation in Antarctica, under threat from global warming."

Several recent studies have suggested that Antarctica,



which stores some 70 percent of the world's fresh water and until now seemed largely to have escaped the effects of global warming, is melting.

Monaco last May became the 47th state signatory of the Antarctica Treaty which regulates human activities on the continent. □

Best Picture Race Gets Animated; Sean Penn Milks Another Win

LOS ANGELES - Waltz with Bashir, filmmaker Ari Folman's stylish documentary about the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, was named Best Picture Saturday by the National Society of Film Critics. WALL-E tied for second with the British comedy Happy-Go-Lucky.

Sean Penn picked up yet another Best Actor win for Milk. Happy-Go-Lucky's Sally Hawkins added to her nearly as big Best Actress haul.

In a twist, Heath Ledger did not win Best Supporting Actor. In a bigger twist, Penelope Cruz did not win Best Supporting Actress.

Cruz, who has virtually swept the critics awards for Woody Allen's Vicky Cristina Barcelona, finished third in voting behind Doubt's Viola Davis, who took second, and Hanna Schygulla, who won for the German film, The Edge of Heaven.

Ledger, The Dark Knight Oscar favorite, took second to British actor Eddie Marsan of Happy-Go-Lucky, which dominated with four wins, including two for filmmaker Mike Leigh (Best Director and Best Screenplay).

Frost/Nixon and Revolutionary Road were among the award-season contenders to be denied even mentions. Slumdog Millionaire claimed Best Cinematography, but nothing else. The National Society of Film Critics is no servant to your office Oscar pool. Since 2000, only one of its Best Picture picks, Million Dollar Baby, has repeated with a win at the Academy Awards.

Next up on the award-season circuit: next Sunday's Golden Globes. Oscar nominations are out Jan. 22.

Here's a rundown of the winners of the 43rd Annual National Society of Film Critics Awards:

- Best Picture: Waltz with Bashir
- Best Actor: Sean Penn, Milk
- Best Actress: Sally Hawkins, Happy-Go-Lucky
- Best Supporting Actress: Hanna Schygulla, The Edge of Heaven
- Best Supporting Actor: Eddie Marsan, Happy-Go-Lucky
- Best Director: Mike Leigh, Happy-Go-Lucky
- Best Screenplay: Mike Leigh, Happy-Go-Lucky
- Best Nonfiction Film: Man on Wire
- Best Cinematography: Slumdog Millionaire
- Best Experimental Film: Razzle Dazzle □

Autopsy completed on John Travolta's son

FREEPORT, Bahamas – Doctors in the Bahamas conducted an autopsy Monday on John Travolta's 16-year-old son, but authorities did not immediately disclose the results.

Bahamian Minister of Health Hubert Minnis said the autopsy was finished but declined to comment on what may have caused the death of Jett Travolta, who had a history of seizures and was found unconscious in a bathroom Friday at a family vacation home.

Jett's body was expected to be transferred soon to Grand Bahama's Restview Memorial Mortuary, said Glen Campbell, an assistant funeral director.

The family plans to send his remains by Wednesday to Ocala, Fla., where the actor owns a home, said Obie Wilchcombe, a family friend and member of the Bahamian parliament.

Travolta tried CPR to revive his son, and Jett may have died in his arms before an emergency medical technician took over, Usmagazine.com reported, citing McDermott and another attorney for Travolta, Michael Ossi.

"We are heartbroken that our time with him was so brief. We will cherish the time we had with him for the rest of our lives," Travolta and his wife, Kelly Preston, said Sunday in their first public statement since Jett's death.


Travolta, 54, and Preston, 46, have said that Jett became very sick when he was 2 years old and was diagnosed with Kawasaki Syndrome, an illness that leads to inflamed blood vessels in young children. Preston has blamed household cleaners and fertilizers and said that a detoxification program based on teachings from the Church of Scientology helped improve his health, according to People magazine.

A police statement said that Jett had not been seen since Thursday when a caretaker, Jeff Kathrain, found him unconscious late Friday morning.


But Michael McDermott, an attorney for the actor, said police wrongly left the impression that Jett was unsupervised. He said two nannies were with Jett throughout the evening, and he does not believe the teen was in the bathroom for a long time.

About a dozen security guards and Bahamian police officers patrolled around the luxury Old Bahama Bay resort community Sunday where Travolta and Preston remained inside their home. The white-sand beach in front of the suites was closed.

The couple also have an 8-year-old daughter, Ella Bleu. Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham sent condolences to the Travolta family and said the autopsy is a formality the country requires in cases of sudden death to rule out foul play. □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Steelers' Harrison is AP Defensive Player of Year



This Nov. 30, 2008 file photo shows Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison (92) drawing a bead on New England Patriots running back Sammy Morris (34) as he takes the handoff from New England Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel (16) during first quarter action of their NFL game in Foxborough, Mass.. Harrison, the best player on the NFL's best defense, has won The Associated Press 2008 Defensive Player of the Year award, Monday Jan. 5, 2009.

Associated Press

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - James Harrison slams down the current version of the Steel Curtain better than any Pittsburgh Steeler, earning him The Associated Press 2008 Defensive Player of the Year award.

The linebacker who had a career-high 16 sacks, setting a team record, and led the NFL with a career-high seven forced fumbles, beat Dallas' DeMarcus Ware in balloting by a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters announced Monday. Pittsburgh defense was the league's stingiest in total defense, pass defense and points allowed. Harrison was its main hammer.

"That's something that everybody in the league would love to have, to be voted the top player in the league for that year," Harrison said. "In my mind, I think I do - and it's going to sound boring - what the defense allows me to do and what my teammates allow me to do."

Harrison earned 22 votes to 13 for Ware.

Baltimore safety Ed Reed, the 2004 winner, got eight votes. Tennessee defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth had five and Harrison's teammate, safety Troy Polamalu, got two.

Harrison credited defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau's schemes with allowing him, an undrafted free agent from Kent State who was cut several times by Pittsburgh and once by Baltimore, to eventually become a star.

"The defense is built to play with 11 guys, and if all 11 guys are on the same page, playing the same defense on the same play, there's nothing

that can go wrong and that's just how we feel about it," Harrison said.

But fellow linebacker James Farrior, who has seen Harrison develop from a backup to Joey Porter into one of the game's biggest playmakers, sees Harrison as the key.

"His whole attitude about football, I think he works harder than anybody else in this locker room," Farrior said. "He has a great work ethic. He's very tuned in to what he has to do to make himself better. That's all he strives for, to try to be better than anybody else, and you can see his determination when he's out there on the field."

"We've got good players on this team, and every team has good players, but he seems to be -this year and last year - making the plays that made the difference in the game."

Harrison is the fifth Steeler to win the award, including three Hall of Famers from the original Steel Curtain: Joe Greene (1974), Mel Blount (1975) and Jack Lambert (1976). In 1993, Rod Woodson was AP Defensive Player of the Year, and he is eligible for the Hall for the first time this year.

The Steelers did not allow a 100-yard rusher or 300-yard passer in 2008. Harrison didn't limit his work to that stingy unit, though: Harrison also had 12 special teams tackles.

"People said I couldn't do this or couldn't do that," he noted. "I was too short, too slow. Basically, I play and prepare myself in the offseason with the thoughts of what people said I couldn't do."

And he's proven he can do just about everything.

NHL Roundup

Blackhawks beat Flames 5-2

CHICAGO (AP) - Nikolai Khabibulin made 34 saves, and Martin Havlat, Andrew Ladd and Patrick Sharp each had a goal and an assist as the Chicago Blackhawks rebounded from consecutive losses to beat the Calgary Flames 5-2 on Sunday. Kris Versteeg and Dustin Byfuglien also scored for Chicago, swept by Detroit in a home-and-away series that featured the Winter Classic after winning a franchise-record nine straight games. Blackhawks defenseman Duncan Keith had two assists.

Todd Bertuzzi and Daymond Langkow scored for Calgary. Chicago ended the Flames' winning streak at five and snapped their points streak at 10 games. Calgary hadn't lost in regulation since Dec. 9 at Montreal.

Blackhawks scoring leader Patrick Kane was sidelined by a high-ankle sprain, the first time he has missed a game in his NHL career because of an injury.

Devils 4, Senators 3, OT

At Newark, New Jersey, Brian Rolston scored a power-play goal 1:43 into overtime and Scott Clemmensen made 17 saves to give New Jersey a victory over Ottawa.

Jamie Langenbrunner forced the overtime for New Jersey with a power-play goal with 3:40 left in regulation. Defenseman Johnny Oduya got the primary assists on both goals, with Rolston's shot hitting Alex Auld's pads before creeping into the net.

Dainius Zubrus scored twice to help New Jersey win for the fourth time in five games and the seventh in 10.

Nick Foligno, Brendan Bell and Chris Kelly scored for Ottawa, 3-8-2 in its last 13 games and 0-5-1 on an eight-game trip while the world junior tournament is in Ottawa.

Canadiens 6, Panthers 5, SO

At Montreal, Andrei Markov scored the only shootout goal as Montreal backup goalkeeper Jaroslav Halak stopped shots from Florida's Cory Stillman, Nathan Horton and Michael Frolik after making 19 saves in his second straight start.

Andrei Kostitsyn scored twice in regulation for the Canadiens, and Francis Bouillon, Tom Kostopoulos and Robert Lang added goals.

Radek Dvorak scored his second goal of the third period with 1:38 left to draw Florida even at 5. Brett McLean, David Booth, Jassen Cullimore also scored.



Lightning 4, Thrashers 1

At Atlanta, Martin St. Louis scored twice and Mike Smith made 27 saves to help Tampa Bay move out of last place in the Southeast Division.

Tampa Bay (11-18-10) has 32 points, one more than Atlanta (13-22-5).

In other NHL games Sunday, it was: New Jersey 4, Ottawa 3 in overtime; Montreal 6, Florida 5 in a shootout; Minnesota 2, Colorado 0; Dallas 3, Vancouver 2 in a shootout; Tampa Bay 4, Atlanta 1; and Anaheim 2, Phoenix 0.

Roddick, Monfils through to second round in Doha

DOHA, Qatar (AP) - Fourth-seeded Andy Roddick and No. 5 Gael Monfils won in straight sets Monday in the first round of the season-opening Qatar Open.

Roddick beat Ivan Navarro of Spain 6-1, 6-3 after breaking twice in each set. The American will play Diego Junqueira of Argentina or Arnaud Clement of France.

“(It is) a good start to the year,” said Roddick, who served eight aces. “I am pretty happy with my play. I didn’t do anything stupid. I returned well. I got what I wanted from the match. I have been training hard in the offseason.”

Monfils of France fired seven aces to win 6-2, 6-2 over Jan Hernych of the Czech Republic, who committed 28 unforced errors.

Monfils, the 2006 finalist who broke into the top 20 last year and was a surprise semifinalist at the French Open, was delighted



Andy Roddick from the U.S., returns the ball to Ivan Navarro of Spain at the ATP Qatar tennis open in Doha, Qatar, Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

Associated Press with his performance.

“It’s good it wasn’t a long match but I practiced hard before the season began,” he said. “I did everything and it was a perfect match for me.”

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal and No. 2 Roger Federer, a two-time winner, are in action Tuesday at the \$1.2 million tournament. □

Slovakia beats U.S. at Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) - Dominik Hrbaty upset James Blake 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (1) Monday to lead Slovakia to victory over the defending champion United States at the Hopman Cup.

Hrbaty, coming back from a serious elbow injury last season that saw his ranking slide to No. 250, gave Slovakia a winning edge after teammate Dominika Cibulkova beat Meghann Shaughnessy 6-2, 6-2 in the opening women’s singles match.

Hrbaty and Cibulkova defeated Shaughnessy and Blake 6-4, 7-6 (4) in mixed doubles to complete a 3-0 win.

Blake, ranked 10th, went into the match with a 2-1 career edge against Hrbaty, including a win at the Beijing Olympics in August. But Hrbaty’s sole previous victory over Blake came in the 2005 Hopman Cup in straight sets. Earlier, Sabine Lisicki won her opening singles match and then joined German teammate Nicolas Kiefer to beat Australia in mixed doubles and clinch a 2-1 victory. Lisicki defeated Casey Dellacqua, coming from a service break down in the deciding set to win 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 and give Germany a 1-0 lead. Lleyton Hewitt of Australia returned from a five-month injury layoff to beat Kiefer 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-2 and level the match.

The German pair then beat Dellacqua and Hewitt 6-7 (2), 6-3 and 10-5 in the match tiebreaker to claim the deciding mixed doubles. Former No. 1 Hewitt hasn’t played since losing to Rafael Nadal at the Olympics. Hewitt was sidelined by a chronic hip injury after Beijing and later had surgery.

“It’s great to be back,” Hewitt said. “It feels good, the hip feels strong. I’ve done everything in my power to get as close to 100 percent for the Australian summer and it’s a matter of just trying to come out here now and play a lot of matches.”

Hewitt said he had trouble early Monday getting his rhythm.

“He’s (Kiefer) a great all-court player, and it was hard to get a read,” Hewitt said. “It was a matter of me hanging in there and weathering the storm.” Dellacqua, playing her first match since being sidelined last September by a shoulder injury, served for the match at 5-4 in the third but lost 12 of the last 13 points and had 33 unforced errors overall. □

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Cozy one story casita, 2 master suit bedrooms, 2 ½ bathrooms, with living/dining/kitchen area wide open. Includes a one-car garage and separate laundry room. Nicely landscaped, and ready for occupancy. **Priced at US\$699,000**

Miramar 27

Lot: 711m2 / 7,653 sq.ft. Home: 245.45 m2 / 2,642 sq.ft. 3/4
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| week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$35,000 | PlatinumPl. W#51 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr, Oceanview-US\$45,000 | week# 50-Paradise Beach 2BTH. R#217,PoolOcean- US\$12,000 |
| week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$30,000 | PlatinumPl. W#52 Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000 | week# 1- Paradise Beach-1Bdr R#227,OceanFront- US\$15,000 |
| week#1-Costa Linda - 2Bdr R#2031 PoolOcean- US\$25,000 | FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,Oceanview- US\$12,000 | week#50&51,Divi Village-studio R#3214,Gardenview- US\$5,500 |
| week#50 -La Cabana - 1 Bdr R#137c - OceanView-US\$6,000 | FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000 | week#52 -DiviPhoenix - studio R#110-OceanFront-US\$11,000 |
| week#51 - DiviPhoenix - 1 Bdr. R#1401, Oceanview-US\$13,500 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000 | week# 1- DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr. R#206,OceanFront- US\$20,000 |
| week#50 & 51 La Cabana-2 Bdr. R#414,PoolOcean US\$30,000 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$30,000 | week# 51-CasaDelMar aw-1Bdr. R#1329,PoolView US\$10,000 |
| week#51-La Cabana - studio R#416b,PoolOcean-US\$7,500 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000 | week# 50 - RIU Palace - 1Bdr R#566,Oceanview-US\$6,000 |
| week#50-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#227a-OceanView- US\$5,500 | PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000 | week#1 - Riu Palace - 2Bdr R#269-OceanFront- US\$28,000 |
| week#50-La Cabana -1Bdr R#138c-PoolOcean-US\$6,000 | week# 50 - Renaissance - 1Bdr. R#2512,Gardenview-US\$9,000 | week#48 - Playa Linda -1Bdr R#154-Oceanview-US\$10,000 |
| week#52-La Cabana- 1Bdr R#118a-PoolOcean- US\$12,000 | week# 47 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2322,OceanView- US\$5,000 | week#48-DiviDutchVillage -2Bdr R#76 - PoolView - US\$12,000 |
| Floating w#2-17 Occidental Gra. 1Bdr/dlx-PoolOcean-US\$13,000 | week# 2 - Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2033,PoolOcean-US\$26,000 | week# 1-DiviLinks-2Bdr penth. Duplex,Poolview - US\$45,000 |
| Floating w#18-50-Occidental Gr. JuniorS-PoolOcean-US\$11,000 | week# 1 & 2 Renaissance-1 Bdr. R#2508,Gardenv.-US\$9,000p.w. | week# 52 - DiviLinks - 1Bdr. R#2206,PoolOcean-US\$15,000 |
| Floating-18-26/36-50-Occidental 1Bdr/dlx,PoolOcean-US\$10,000 | week# 51 - Renaissance -1 Bdr. R#2311,PoolOcean- US\$12,000 | week# 50 & 51-DiviLinks -1 Bdr. R#4226,Poolview-US\$16,000pw |
| Floating W# 1-17-Occidental Gr. studio,PoolOceanv-US\$9,000 | week# 51-Aruban Resort- 1 Bdr. R#4584g, PoolView - US\$9,475 | week# 52 & 1- DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$17,000pw |
| Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Oceanview- US\$23,000 | week#51&52.ArubanResort-1Br R#4586, PoolView-US\$9,475pw | week# 2 & 3-DiviLinks- 1 Bdr R#4226,PoolV.- US\$15,000p.w |
| Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,Gardenview- US\$20,000 | week# 1 & 2,ArubanResort-1Bdr R#4585,Poolview- US\$8,475pw | week# 51&52-DiviVillage-studio R#7204,OceanV,US\$10,000p.w |
| Floating W#18-50.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$30,000 | week# 2,Aruban Resort-1 Bdr. R#4584 ,PoolView-US\$.8,475 | week#51-ParadiseBeach-1Bdr. R#324,PoolOcean- US\$10,000 |
| Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 3Bdr,Oceanview- US\$50,000 | week# 51,Aruban Resort - 1 Bdr R#3525, PoolView - US\$9,475 | week# 50&51-Costa Linda-2Bdr R#3007,PoolOcean-US\$50,000 |
| Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000 | week#52,Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R# 4522,PoolView- US\$9,475 | week#2-ParadiseBeach-2Bdr R#207,PoolOcean - US\$15,000 |
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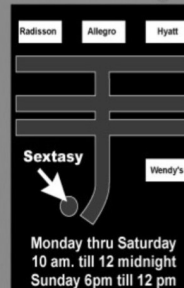


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Decenas desaparecidos y 33 muertos deslave Guatemala

CIUDAD DE GUATEMALA (Reuters) - Al menos 33 personas murieron y decenas permanecían desaparecidas luego de que un gigantesco fragmento de montaña se derrumbó el domingo sobre una carretera en el norte de Guatemala, dijeron el lunes funcionarios.

El deslave, desatado por una falla geológica, ocurrió cuando camiones que trasladaban jornaleros atravesaban la comunidad de Los Chorros, cerca de una carretera y próximo al pueblo indígena de San Cristóbal Verapaz, en el departamento de Alta Verapaz, a unos 200 kilómetros al norte de Ciudad de Guatemala.

Hugo Arvizu, portavoz de Conred, dijo que la cifra de muertos había aumentado a 33 personas, desde 22 el domingo, y que según lo que mencionaban habitantes de la zona, habría hasta 60 personas desaparecidas.

Los rescatistas todavía estaban



Rescatistas cargan a una víctima de un deslave en San Cristóbal Verapaz, 5 ene 2009. Al menos 33 personas murieron y decenas permanecían desaparecidas luego de que un gigantesco fragmento de montaña se derrumbó el domingo sobre una carretera en el norte de Guatemala, dijeron el lunes funcionarios. REUTERS/Oscar Caal (GUATEMALA)

luchando para sacar algunos cuerpos de entre la tierra y las piedras, dijo el portavoz. El

deslave arrastró alrededor de 10 millones de toneladas de roca a la carretera.

Los trabajadores retornaban de fincas de café en un departamento vecino y

aparentemente ignoraron las advertencias de no utilizar el camino, que fue cerrado en diciembre luego de que un pequeño derrumbe provocó la muerte de dos personas.

El alcalde de San Cristóbal Verapaz, Leopoldo Ical, dijo a Reuters que cerca de 80 trabajadores habían viajado en dos camiones y que, al llegar al camino que permanecía clausurado, decidieron atravesar la zona a pie.

“Había dos camiones de 40 personas que regresaban del trabajo en Baja Verapaz. La mayoría de ellos eran trabajadores del campo, de café. Ellos son los fallecidos y desaparecidos”, dijo Ical.

El vicepresidente de Guatemala, Rafael Espada, había dicho el domingo que la caída constante de rocas en el área dificultaba las labores de rescate. Los deslaves son comunes en Guatemala, pero usualmente ocurren durante la temporada de lluvias -entre junio y noviembre- cuando las colinas se cargan de agua y se vuelven inestables.

Las frondosas colinas del departamento de Alta Verapaz son áreas importantes para el cultivo de café y cardamomo, pero una falla geológica en las formaciones rocosas atraviesa por en medio de la zona. □

Chile:

Secretario General de OEA declina candidatura presidencial

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - El secretario general de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA), José Miguel Insulza, regresó el lunes al país para anunciar su retiro de la carrera presidencial y apoyar la candidatura oficialista del ex presidente Eduardo Frei.

Insulza, quien era postulado como precandidato presidencial por su Partido Socialista, anticipó en dos días su regreso al país para informar su decisión.

Insulza, de 65 años, fue elegido secretario general de la OEA en mayo del 2005 y su periodo concluye el 2010. El lunes

después de arribar a esta capital, Insulza se reunió con la prensa para leer una declaración en la que informó su decisión, que no sorprendió pues una encuesta nacional la semana anterior lo dio como perdedor en una primaria en abril con Frei y superado ampliamente como eventual contrincante del candidato presidencial derechista Sebastián Piñera, favorito en los sondeos de opinión.

La elección para elegir al sucesor de la presidenta Michelle Bachelet, quien concluye su periodo de cuatro años en marzo del 2010, debe efectuarse en diciembre. □



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